Phila Dec 31st
1861

Dear R. D'Webb

1848

Wishing you a happy New Year I proceed to say: that your letter in enquiry about Martin did not reach me in ~~for~~ acknowledgement in (time) mine to you of the 19th inst. I have written to Pittsburg & hope to get some information about your protegé, but as yet I have heard nothing.

Well, ~~that~~ the Trent matter is settled - for the present. The developements on your side forbid, however, the hope we would gladly cherish, that the peace between the two countries will be abiding. England has been strongly tempted to go to war with us. She cherishes toward

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the United States a feeling that is not friendly. This being the state of mind it will be hard for this country, try as she may, not to afford her occasion. I do not say that England is hostile to us, though that is here the general belief; but she is not positively friendly. This feeling of impudence under present temptations, makes the danger of war imminent; and more the less but all the more because good people like you don't to regard it. You don't seem to be aware of the ravages Slavery has made upon English Opinion. You understand the workings of the system here but don't seem to perceive its outcroppings among Englishmen. Slavery is a power in Lombard,

in Manchester; at your Club;
in your aristocratic-political
& dilettanti literary circles; in
the sanctums of your Editors;
& in Downing Street. Mad-
vocates have ~~a face~~ the power
of sorceress. They know how
to make public opinion &
how to set it a-spring; they know
how to throw dust in the
eyes of good people. They,
with their book, conscious
& unconscious have flooded
England with the grossest
misrepresentations in re-
gard to public things, e.
vents, institutions in this
country; and good people
are carried away by the
popular current. Wise people are
bofuscated, and the strength

of giants is turned to weakness. Even Richard S. Webb is not timely, for cleareness of perception, and ~~abstract~~ timeliness in the thing that is to be said. — I mean you don't seem to me. I don't speak positively. Perhaps I ought not to expect that the advocate should speak out like the Star in denunciations of the bold & wicked ~~and~~ efforts made to mislead the public mind in Great Britain. You have given our readers pain raising your voice in the columns of that paper against the developements made in your country of hostility to freedom & free institutions. Probably it is because you do not see them as we do. I confess I have been somewhat disappointed that you have not devoted one or two leaders to a searching criticism of the conduct of your public men, & influential guides.

that you have not a very high estimate of our country, government, statesmen, and of the state of feeling here in regard to freedom & slavery. is not much to be wondered at. Our anti-slavery brethren are not the power to go for impartial statements. Their business is to tell the truth; ~~but~~ not the truth relatively, but the truth absolutely. Bunyan meant to think only veiy when he compared himself to one of the vilest creatures living; but Bunyan's character was far above that of his neighbors who hooted to accost

* At least, I have been & am, from yr. I do not.

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his testimony in regard to humanity & treat him accordingly. This army can stand with an ideal, is deservedly wicked & deserving as he is receiving hard penal punishments; but this country, in relations, in virtue, intelligence, magnanimity, is without a peer in the face of the earth. I say this deliberately, and hold myself bound by facts which admit of no gainsay, from the candid & intelligent to prove it. —

I am not prepared to close, but I am compelled to stop.

In haste yours &c

W M McKee